

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 162871

17

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:RAHOLMES:CED
APPROVED BY EA/PRCM:OVARMSTRONG

----- 010344

R 102358Z JUL 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA CVIS CH

SUBJECT: HART VISA REQUEST

REF: STATE 159356

1. ARMSTRONG CALLED IN PRCLO COUNSELOR HSIEH CHI-MEI JULY 10 TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN OVER THE DELAY IN ISSUANCE OF HART'S VISA. ARMSTRONG NOTED THAT VISA FOR CONSULTATION WITH USLO WAS FIRST REQUESTED ON MARCH 17; WE QUERIED PRCLO MAY 1; A NEW NOTE WAS SENT TO PRCLO ON JUNE 10 AND THE MATTER WAS AGAIN RAISED BY TELEPHONE ON JUNE 23. HE ALSO NOTED THAT USLO HAD MENTIONED THE REQUEST TO MFA ON JUNE 20.

2. ARMSTRONG POINTED OUT THAT FOUR MONTHS IS A LONG TIME, THAT WE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THERE HAD BEEN NO RESPONSE, AND THAT IF THE SITUATION WERE REVERSED, THE PRC WOULD ALSO BE CONCERNED. HE ASKED THAT HSIEH CONVEY OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE DELAY TO PEKING AS WELL AS OUR REQUEST THAT THE VISA BE AUTHORIZED.

3. ARMSTRONG NOTED THAT BECAUSE OF THE DELAY A PROBLEM CONCERNING THE TIMING OF HART'S TRAVEL HAS ARisen. HE SAID

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PAGE 02 STATE 162871

THAT IF THE VISA IS ISSUED PROMPTLY, HART MIGHT BE ABLE TO

TRAVEL THIS MONTH; OTHERWISE, HE WILL HAVE TO DELAY HIS TRAVEL UNTIL AUGUST BECAUSE OF MATTERS RELATED TO THE OPERATIONS OF OUR CONSULATE GENERAL IN HONG KONG. ARMSTRONG THEN ASKED HSIEH TO REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR A VISA THAT COULD BE USED IN EITHER JULY OR AUGUST.

4. HSIEH REPLIED THAT PRCLO HAD REFERRED HART VISA REQUEST TO PEKING AND HAD NOT YET RECEIVED ANY INFORMATION. ARMSTRONG SAID WE ASSUMED THIS WAS THE CASE AND IT WAS FOR THIS REASON WE WERE EXPRESSING OUR CONCERN.
INGERSOLL

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